

Daniel Kane House
1419 36th Street, N.W.
(Georgetown)
Washington
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-197

HABS,
DC,
GEO,
133-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

DANIEL KANE HOUSE

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133-

Location: 1419 336th Street, N.W. (Georgetown)
Washington, D.C.

Present Owner and Occupant: Dr. Marie Wanek (1969).

Present Use: Private residence (1969).

Significance: This post-Civil war row house is a good example of the type owned and resided in by artisans, laborers and small merchants during the mid-nineteenth century Georgetown. It was originally occupied by its owners and later used as rental property.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1866. In 1865 Lot 103 was assessed for \$500 to owner Joshua Ritchie, and listed as vacant. In the 1866 City Directory, Daniel Kane, whose wife Catherine purchased the property that year, is listed at this address, indicating that the house was built by the Kanes in 1866. In subsequent tax records, Kane was assessed \$300 for the land and \$400 for improvements.
2. Architect: None known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The building is located in Square 1247, Lot 811 in the City of Washington (formerly Square 77, Lot 103 in Threlkeld's Addition to Georgetown). Its original address was 58 Langan Street. The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands. Reference is to the office of the Recorder of Deeds, Washington, D.C.

1866 Joshua A. Richie et ux Mary S. to Catherine Kane
Deed August 17, 1866 Recorded December 28, 1866
Liber RMH 26, folio 171

1898 Catherine Kane died July 14, 1898, intestate.
Administration 8519

Dennis Kane, Mary E. Thorn, children & heirs of
Catherine Kane to Daniel Kane
Deed August 20, 1898 Recorded August 22, 1898
Liber 2312, folio 494

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- 1912 Daniel Kane died May 3, 1912.
Will January 20, 1911 Probated June 17, 1912
Will Book 79, page 218
- 1914 Harry A. Hegarty, Thomas Splaun, trustees under Will of
Daniel Kane to James M. Woodward
Deed July 21, 1914 Recorded July 21, 1914
Liber 3716, folio 495
- 1915 James M. Woodward & wife, Lillie A. to John O'Kane
Deed October 7, 1915 Recorded October 8, 1915
Liber 3829, folio 278
- 1936 John O'Kane to Ethel S. Russell
Deed September 14, 1936 Recorded September 15, 1936
Liber 7030, folio 376
- 1945 Ethel S. Russell to William D. F. Morrison, Jacqueline
B. Morrison, his wife
Deed September 6, 1945 Recorded October 6, 1945
Liber 8165, folio 381
- 1946 William D. F. Morrison & Jacqueline Morrison to
William Koren, Jr., Isabelle J., his wife
Deed August 26, 1946 Recorded August 26, 1946
Liber 8331, folio 304
- 1961 Isabelle J. Koren, surviving co-tenant of deceased
husband, William Koren, Jr. to Janet G. Felton
Deed June 14, 1961 Recorded June 29, 1961
Liber 11625, folio 130
- 1962 Janet G. Felton Cooper & Richard J. Cooper, her
husband to Marie G. Wanek
Deed October 12, 1962 Recorded November 27, 1962
Liber 11908, folio 1149

4. Alterations and Additions: The street level was raised in the mid-1890s so that the first floor level is currently below street level. The front door and window on west (front) and east (rear) elevations were added in the mid-twentieth century. An interior corridor along the north party wall in the basement was added, and the arrangement of stairs has been altered.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

Daniel Kane lived in this brick house with members of his family for forty-two years. A laborer, he also worked as a carter or driver. When his wife died in 1898, Daniel was deeded the inherited shares of this property by his son, Dennis, and his daughter, Mary E. Thorn. Dennis and his family of nine children lived with his father at 1419 36th Street until 1909 when they all moved to 3308 O Street. (City Directories).

By January 1911 when Daniel made out his last Will he had acquired a considerable amount of property--six houses in western Georgetown, three houses in the thirty-two hundred block of Q Street in Georgetown, and two houses on Myrtle Street, N.W.

John O'Kane held the property for twenty-one years, using it for rental purposes. During his ownership the house was occupied by the Cumberland family, who were laborers and clerks, followed by Harrison Mason, and then Lillian Baker, a charwoman.

Ethel S. Russell bought the house in 1936. The next year it was vacant, so presumably alterations were made before it was rented to George E. Chamberlain, an engineer, and his family. Before the house was sold in 1945, it was rented to the family of Jacques J. Reinstein, an assistant division chief at the Department of State. William Koren, Jr., a State Department researcher, and his wife, Isabelle, were the first owners since Daniel Kane to live in the brick house. (City Directories).

C. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Record Group 351, National Archives, Records of the City of Georgetown (D.C.), 1800-1879: Assessment of Real and Personal Property, Microcopy 605, Roll 12, (1865-70); Roll 13 (1871).

Will of Daniel Kane, January 20, 1911, probated June 17, 1912 Will Book 79, page 218. Register of Wills, U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

2. Secondary and published sources:

Boyd's Washington and Georgetown Directory, 1867, p. 344;
1871, p. xvi.

Boyd's Directory of the District of Columbia, 1873, p. 602;
1876, p. 315; 1880, p. 401; 1904, p. 581.

Boyd's District of Columbia Directory, 1908, p. 730; 1909, p.
760; 1916, pp. 365, 1665; 1918, pp. 372, 1815; 1920, p. 1906;
1930, pp. 193, 2111; 1937, p. 1702; 1939, pp. 236, 1861;
1943, pp. 383, 1239.

Polk's Washington City Directory, 1948, p. 652; 1960, p. 987.

Prepared by Volunteers for the
Commission of Fine Arts
Washington, D.C.
1969.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: The Kane House is a good example of a brick row house of the post-Civil War era.
2. Condition of Fabric: The house is in good general condition on both the interior and the exterior.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions: The two-story structure is approximately 18' wide and is approximately 32' deep, with a three-bay front.
2. Foundations: The basic foundation is rough laid stone. The brick wall begins approximately 4' to 5' above the basement floor.
3. Wall Construction: The brick bearing wall of the house (now painted white) is on common bond with bond courses every eight courses. The flush mortar joints are rather roughly made. The house connects to party walls on both the north and south.
4. Framing: Not visible.
5. Porches, Stoops, Bulkheads, etc: Due to the raising of the grade of 36th Street, the house is entered by a stairwell. There is a 4'3" drop from the public sidewalk to the first floor level and a 6'8" drop from the first floor to the basement floor. The stairway construction is concrete with brick faced treads. The opening is surrounded by a black painted iron railing.
6. Chimneys: There are two brick chimneys 5' by 2' with simple brick caps at the third points of the south party wall.

7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and Doors: The wood six panel 2'8" entry door at the north end of the west elevation is in a simply trimmed masonry opening with a four light wood trimmed transom. An aluminum storm door has been added. The other two doorways to the house are at the basement level at the north end of the west elevation and at the east elevation from the dining room to the rear yard.
- b. Windows and Shutters: Windows at the 36th Street (west) elevation are six-over-six light double hung wood sash in 3' 10" by 5' 4" masonry openings. Lintels are flat arched with single sawn-brick voussoirs and sills are wood.

Two panel fixed louvre shutters at each window have been nailed to the 36th Street elevation.

The rear (east) elevation has six-over-six-light double hung wood sash. The two second floor windows have steel lintels.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, Covering: The simple low pitched shed roof runs down from west to east and is covered by standing seam metal.
- b. Cornice, Eaves: At the west elevation there is a simple wood cornice with a wide horizontal board frieze and a large bracket at each end of the elevation with a series of much smaller scroll brackets between. There are no gutters or down spouts visible. The east elevation has a simple three-course brick cornice and an aluminum gutter and downspout.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans:

- a. First floor: At present the house is entered at the first floor which contains both a front and a rear living room.
- b. Basement: A central stair to the basement leads to a front kitchen and a rear dining room. There is a three foot corridor at the north party wall running the full depth of the house and ending in a water closet.
- c. Second floor: Ascent to the second floor is by a stair opposite the front entry against the north wall. This floor contains a front and a rear bedroom plus a rear bath. Each floor has two levels. The rear (east) half of the house is one riser lower than the west half on all three floors. In addition, the corridor in the basement is one riser higher than the west floor level.

2. Stairways: At present the main stair is at the center of the north party wall and is a straight run of 12 risers up from west to east. A second stairway between the two living rooms descends in a straight run ten risers from south to north to the level of the basement corridor.

This stair arrangement is probably not original. Marks in the plaster of the living room (rear) and replacement floor boards on the second floor suggest that at one time the main stair was over the existing stair to the basement.

Present stair trim includes a twentieth-century railing around the opening of the stair to the basement. The stair to the second floor is supported by full height wall at its south side as well as by the north party wall. This stair has a simple wood railing with simple wood balusters.

3. Flooring: The first and second floor have random width (approximately 5" to 8") wood flooring. The basement has vinyl tile flooring.
4. Wall and Ceiling Finish: Plaster.

5. Doorways and Doors: Simple twentieth-century four panel wood doors are used throughout the house. Doorway trim has simple wood moldings.
6. Decorative Features and Trim: The walls are without trim with the exception of a simple wood baseboard. There are open fireplaces in the kitchen and in the living room. The one in the living room has a marble surround and a brick hearth added in the twentieth century.
7. Hardware: There is a variety of twentieth-century hardware.
8. Mechanical Equipment:
 - a. Heating: The present central heating system has radiator units in each room.
 - b. Lighting: There is a variety of mid-twentieth century fixtures.

D. Site:

1. General Setting and Orientation: The house faces west on 36th Street between O and P Streets. The south wall is approximately 136' from the centerline of O Street, measured along 36th Street. The first floor and front entrance are located approximately 4'3" below street level, due to the raising of the street in the mid 1890's. This is one of many brick row houses on this quiet tree-shaded residential street near Georgetown University.
2. Enclosures: A wooden stockade fence approximately 5' high surrounds the rear yard.
3. Landscaping: The rear yard has a brick patio extending approximately 15' from the east facade. The remainder of the yard is lawn and rises approximately 2' to 3' to the east. There are remains of a large tree at the northeast corner of the property.

Prepared by: William P. Thompson
Architect
Historic American Building
Survey

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were prepared as part of a project to record structures in the western part of the Georgetown Historic District in Washington, D.C. The project was conducted by the Commission of Fine Arts with the cooperation of the Historic American Buildings Survey. The resulting documentation was donated to HABS by the Commission and published in 1970 in HABS Selections Number 6, "Georgetown Architecture - Northwest: Northwest Washington, District of Columbia". Research for the project was conducted by volunteers under the supervision of Ms. Nancy Black, staff member of the Commission of Fine Arts. Architectural information was prepared by William P. Thompson. The photographs were taken by J. Alexander. The data was edited and prepared for transmittal to the Library of Congress by HABS architectural historian Emily J. Harris in 1979.